



Supplement No 1

This issue we present a Gemstone File supplement of recent mainstream updates which cast light on this many-faceted document.

Kennedy & Giancana

In February this year, Judith Campbell Exner claimed in an interview with a US magazine that she was a courier and contact between President John F. Kennedy and a Chicago mobster.

Exner claims to have arranged at least ten meetings between Kennedy and Mafia boss Sam Giancana in the early 1960s. She split a US People magazine fee of \$US100,000 with the article's author, Kitty Kelley.

Exner admitted in a 1975 appearance before the Senate intelligence committee that she had an 18-month affair with Kennedy before and after he entered the White House, and an earlier affair with Giancana.

"Now that I'm dying and nothing more can happen to me, I want to be completely honest," she says. "I don't think I should have to die with the secret of what I did for Jack Kennedy, or what he did with the power of his presidency." Suffering from cancer, she says Kennedy used Mob money and muscle to secure his election victory.

"I lied when I said President Kennedy was unaware of my friendships with mobsters," Exner said, referring to her 1975 testimony and a book she wrote in 1977 called *My Story*. "In fact, I've gone to great lengths to keep the truth from ever coming out, which is probably the only reason I'm alive today. (But) he knew about my dealings... because I was seeing them for him."

For 18 months around the 1960 election (which Kennedy won by a very small margin), Exner was Kennedy's conduit to the Mafia - particularly Chicago boss Sam Giancana. She regularly carried messages and set up private meetings between them - at least one in the White House.

Sinatra Connection

Exner's father was a wealthy California architect. By 1959 she was on the Hollywood party circuit and was briefly Frank Sinatra's girlfriend. Early in 1960, Sinatra invited her to his show in Las Vegas at the Sands Hotel, where he introduced her to his friend, Senator John Kennedy. Exner says Kennedy called her every day for the next month and set up a rendezvous in a New York hotel. "It was a wonderful night of lovemaking," she said.

A week later, Sinatra called to invite her down to a Miami show, where he introduced her to his friend Giancana.

"I feel like I was set up to be a courier," she said. "I was a perfect choice because I could come and go without notice and, if noticed, no-one would've believed it anyway."

"I never told anyone else because I thought I would be killed," she said. "Look at what happened to Jack and Sam, who was murdered in his house while under police surveillance." Giancana was killed in 1975, the night before his scheduled appearance before a Senate Intelligence committee.

First Assignment

In April 1960, Exner met Kennedy in his Washington apartment for dinner and lovemaking while pregnant Jackie was in Florida. "Jack turned to me and said, 'Could you quietly arrange a meeting with Sam for me? I think I may need his help in the campaign.'"

Six days later, Kennedy and Giancana met at the same Miami hotel. Kennedy handed Exner an envelope containing two \$1000 bills later that night.

"He seemed very happy about it and thanked me for making the arrangements," she said. "Jack told me if he didn't get the nomination in July, he and his wife would get a divorce. Their marriage was unhappy and the divorce was a mutual decision between them."

That first meeting concerned the West Virginia primary. FBI wiretaps revealed that huge donations from Mafia figures poured into Kennedy coffers to pay off election officials - and Sinatra apparently helped distribute the money.

Kennedy won the primary with over 60% of the vote, but still needed a victory in Illinois, Giancana's home State; more meetings followed. After the election Giancana boasted to Exner that Kennedy would never have won if not for the Mob.

"I thought I was in love with Jack," she said. "He trusted me and I was doing something important for him. I was 26 years old and didn't have any great purpose in life. That's probably why I became so involved in this and did it with such gusto. I guess I felt I was doing something important."

Throughout 1961, and especially after the Bay of Pigs, she claims she was an unwitting participant in the failed assassination plans against Castro. Then she realised she was being followed by the FBI.

"They hounded me about Sam and I was terrified," she said. "I called Jack immediately to tell him the FBI had been to see me, asking all sorts of questions about Sam. I told him I had said I knew nothing about Sam's business. Jack reassured me.

"He said, 'Don't worry, they won't do anything to you. And don't worry about Sam. You know he works for us.' He told me that over and over."

Parts of Exner's story were questioned by Giancana's daughter, Antoinette, in a TV interview on CBS This Morning in late February. Ms Giancana said she had never met Exner but admitted she was her father's girlfriend and that her father had wanted to help in an assassination plot against Dr Fidel Castro. But Antoinette, 52, denied Exner was a messenger for the President and her father.

"First of all, the mob never put anything in writing," she said. "And my father resented the Kennedys immensely. He used very choice words for the Kennedy family when their name came up."

Exner remains adamant, and says she was the conduit which made written deals unnecessary.

Contract On America

A newly released book draws the connections between Kennedy and the Mob still tighter. *Contract On America*, the culmination of a 10 year investigation by David Scheim, is a detailed account of the events leading up to and immediately following the JFK assassination.

"Gracing the tableau are neither crackpots nor clowns, freak coincidences nor senseless crimes," writes Scheim. "Rather, coming sharply into focus is the vicious combine of killers... a group with the motive and capability to perform the assassination. Indeed, the conclusion is clear. The Mafia killed President Kennedy."

Scheim says Kennedy angered organised crime when he stopped official attempts to overthrow Castro and recover millions in Mob gambling money lost in the Cuban revolution. Bobby Kennedy also declared a 'war on crime' as Attorney-General. Official files detailed by Scheim show that Teamster Union president Jimmy Hoffa, Florida crime boss Sam Trafficante and head of America's oldest Mafia family, Carlos Marcello - who controlled an empire stretching from New Orleans to Texas - made direct statements that "their problems with the Kennedy Administration would be solved by an assassination."

Lee Harvey Oswald's family had mob connections and he was bailed out of jail in New Orleans by Marcello's top aide three months before the November 22nd assassination. Scheim states that Oswald took part in the conspiracy, but that two other men - David Ferrie and Eugene Hale Brading - also took part (see *Gemstone File*).

Ferrie knew Oswald since the 1950s and also had Mafia ties; he was seen with Oswald in New Orleans a month after his release from jail. He also gave a dubious alibi for the time of the JFK murder.

Brading was found in the nearby Dal-Tex building (from which one bullet originated according to witnesses and ballistics evidence) after the shooting. He was arrested for being present "without good

cause" and inexplicably released without fingerprinting or follow-up investigation. It wasn't until 1969, after he was also questioned by Los Angeles police after the Bobby Kennedy assassination that it was learned Brading was a Mob associate with a record of 35 arrests.

Two acoustics experts (and many witnesses) have testified that a third shot originated on the grassy knoll bordering Elm St with "95% or better" probability. An enhanced photograph shows a gunman poised in bushes there with a rifle. Dallas policeman Joe Smith later testified that he spoke with a man standing behind a picket fence near the knoll, who produced a secret service badge. Records show that no secret service agent was stationed there.

Ruby's True Colours

Jack Ruby, Oswald's killer, had been a Mafia soldier in Dallas for over 25 years; the investigating Warren Commission deleted this fact from its official verdict. They never revealed that Ruby's telephone records immediately prior to the assassination showed many calls to Mob officials and go-betweens, but suggested he killed Oswald because of shocked patriotism - and an infatuation with Jackie Kennedy. On the morning of November 22nd, Mary Lawrence, a bar waitress, saw Ruby talking to a younger man who looked like Oswald. "If you don't want to die, you better get out of town," a phone call informed her two days before an FBI interview after the assassination.

Ruby was at the Dallas police station every day after the Kennedy assassination, handing out cards to his Carousel Club to reporters. He was the Mafia pay-off man to Dallas police and had hundreds of connections within the force. Government wiretaps show that one of these, Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker, was on the take and knew Ruby well. Decker rode in the "rolling command car" as part of the presidential motorcade and was involved in the 'unsuccessful transfer' of Oswald from the Dallas police jail where Ruby shot Oswald.

According to Scheim, Ruby owed the Mob a favour and believed he'd get off lightly for murdering Oswald. Four weeks after being sentenced to death on March 14th, 1964, Ruby asked to see the Warren Commission. Inexplicably, they declined at first - but during his subsequent testimonies (reported in NEXUS No 3) to commission members he said there was a conspiracy behind the killings.

"I want to tell the truth and I can't tell it here," he said. "Does that make sense to you? My life is in danger here." Sheriff Bill Decker supervised Ruby's incarceration.

According to Scheim, J. Edgar Hoover (head of the FBI and, some say, most powerful man in North America) had known ties to New York mobster Frank Costello and "an atrocious record" on organised crime. He ensured that Oswald was labeled a 'lone killer'. Scheim says that Vice-President Johnson also had strong mob connections and accepted pay-offs for curbing investigations into organised crime.

"In conclusion, the Kennedy assassination cover-up fits the pattern that Roman historian Tacitus had characterised 19 centuries ago on the murder of Emperor Galba: 'a shocking crime' committed 'on the unscrupulous initiative of a few individuals, amid the passive acquiescence of all'," writes Scheim.

As a result, Kennedy's 'war on crime' - and proposed withdrawal from Vietnam and defence cuts - were stopped.

"Perhaps the most disturbing benefit the Mob derived has been unprecedented (and continuing) influence at the highest levels of Government," Scheim concludes.

- R.A.

The Gemstone File will continue next issue. - for more information see issues 1-5.

Facts from 'Contract On America' & AP 25-2-88 & 5-3-88